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Security Council

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Letter dated 27 January 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 25 January 2003 from Mr. Naji Sabri, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq, concerning the escalation by the United States of its grave acts of aggression and provocation directed against Iraq and the United Nations peacekeeping force in the boundary zone between Iraq and Kuwait.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammed A. **Aldouri**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 27 January 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Further to our letter of 5 January 2003 (S/2003/14), the United States is continuing to escalate its grave acts of aggression and provocation directed against Iraq and the United Nations peacekeeping force in the boundary zone between Iraq and Kuwait. Thus, at 1700 hours on 16 January 2003 a group of some 32 American tanks and 4 armoured cars, with a number of other miscellaneous military vehicles and a control station, carried out a military exercise with the use of live ammunition near the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait, which is controlled by the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM). This force came within 1.5 kilometres of the demilitarized zone on the Kuwaiti side, and the exercise was conducted in open combat formation. The group still remains in the same location.

This action represents a dangerous escalation by the United States of the situation in the boundary zone between Iraq and Kuwait. It is a direct threat to regional and international peace and security and shows contempt for international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the Security Council resolutions urging States to respect Iraq's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. These same resolutions also require respect for the security and safety of UNIKOM personnel. This action comes on top of the other acts of aggression and terrorism being committed by the United States, which includes its daily aerial attacks, carried out with the participation of the United Kingdom, and its bombardment of Iraqi towns and villages in the two no-flight zones imposed in violation of international law and the resolutions of the Security Council.

We reiterate our call to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Security Council to send a fact-finding mission to document United States violations of the Charter of the United Nations and the Security Council resolutions relating to the situation between Iraq and Kuwait, to visit the demilitarized zone and to consider the adoption of appropriate measures to enforce respect for the relevant Security Council resolutions, including their stipulations concerning the tasks of the United Nations peacekeeping force. We further call upon the States Members of the United Nations, and upon the members of the Security Council in particular, to halt this violation of the rule of law in international relations and to declare their complete rejection and unequivocal condemnation of the aggressive designs of the United States with respect to Iraq, given that they are in violation of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant Security Council resolutions.

(*Signed*) Naji **Sabri**
Minister for Foreign Affairs